ABAC’s Museum Celebrates Independence Day July 2

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will ring in Independence Day and celebrate the museum’s 35th anniversary on July 2.

From 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. patrons will enjoy activities such as children's games and races, a watermelon-eating contest, music, clogging, and food. Children’s activities will include sack races, traditional crafts, and watermelon seed-spitting contest. Georgia food vendors will be on hand with favorites like turkey legs, cotton candy, shaved ice, fried green tomatoes and much more. The museum will also have an antique tractor show and parade during the day.

Traditional music and clogging will take place throughout the village. Performance groups will include Bill Nicholson and his musicians on the porch of the Gibbs House, The Carpenter Brothers Band on the Opry Stage at 11 a.m., Flat Creek Cloggers on the Opry Stage at noon, and Sudden Impact Cloggers after lunch, on the Opry Stage.

The Tifton Exchange Club will be at the museum to giveaway free American flags. Patrons can also enjoy free ice cold watermelon. Like every Saturday, the steam train will be running every 20 minutes. Admission to the museum for the day is $10 for adults, $8 for seniors, and $5 for children.

Some of the Georgia artisans participating in the festivities include sculptor Randy Anthony, wood turner Paul Horst, basket weaver Virginia Lowman, quilters Jane Rodgers and Rae Giddens, as well as potter Alton Gregory.

Cartoonist Cliff Ulmer will also be on-hand to create unique and personalized caricatures.

The museum will re-open at 5:30 p.m. for a concert from country artist Kevin Sport at 7 p.m. and the return of the annual fireworks display at 9 p.m. Tift Regional Medical Center is the headline sponsor of the fireworks. Admission is $5 per vehicle of eight people and $20 for vehicles of over eight passengers.

To commemorate the anniversary of the museum, Gina Chambers, owner of G’s Cake Creations, will bake a replica of the museum’s steam engine complete with many special effects. The cake will be displayed inside the lobby of the museum during the day and will be served to patrons at 8 p.m. during the intermission of the pre-fireworks concert.

Pre-sale tickets for the July 2 event will go on sale June 21 at the country store. Tickets for the day activities as well as parking passes for the evening concert and fireworks will be available for purchase. Anyone who pre-purchases tickets will be able to utilize the express entrance lane. For more information on any of the events on July 2 or to purchase tickets in advance, come by the country store or contact the museum at (229) 391-5205.

Ross Retires From ABAC After 32 Years

Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Dean of the School of Business, gives Dr. Chrystle Ross some advice during her retirement reception in Evans Hall last week. We wish Dr. Ross the best of luck during her retirement. Ross started at ABAC on September 10, 1979.
Orientation Season is in Full Swing!

**Friday, July 8**
- check-in at 8 a.m.

**Friday, July 22**
- check-in at 8 a.m.

**Tuesday, August 9**
- check-in at 8 a.m.

For more information on any of these sessions contact the Academic Support Counselors at 391-4995.

**Tree Near Bowen Hall Being Removed**

The laurel oak tree at the southwest corner of Bowen Hall is being removed this week. A certified arborist has determined there is evidence of root rot and decay. Further studies determined the tree has progressively deteriorated and should be removed as soon as possible. The tree is being removed for the safety of those that use the walkways around the tree.

**Welcome Wulle to ABAC**

Amanda Wulle is the newest addition to the Admissions office. Wulle graduated from Purdue University in May 2010 with bachelor’s degree in communications. For the past year, she worked in the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue helping recruit prospective students.

Wulle (pronounced Wooly) joined the ABAC team as a recruitment counselor June 13. Stop by the student center and give her a warm ABAC welcome.

**The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.**

Please submit any information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Williamson at awilliamson@abac.edu for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

**Vantrees Takes the Helm as Student Government President**

With another year approaching, sophomore Kevin Vantrees, has a new role to add to his growing list of extracurricular activities as part of the student body at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Vantrees will serve as the president of the Student Government Association (SGA) and his job will kick into gear when fall term begins.

The agribusiness and agricultural economics major had been toying with the idea of running for SGA President due to his love of politics and when the opportunity arose, he jumped at the chance.

“I knew I had the potential to bring the school to life,” Vantrees said. “I want to implement more student involvement on campus.” Vantrees said. “For example, I would like to put on a pool party during the first week of classes. I also hope to continue to build on ABAC traditions as president of the SGA.”

Vantrees is no stranger to student involvement on campus. Currently he is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, the Ag Business Club, and the College Republicans. He was previously a member of FFA, the ABAC Ambassadors, and Cultura Latina. He has participated in the Mr. ABAC contest, garnering a place as one of the top five and is a member of the National Agribusiness and Marketing Association (NAMA).

He is currently working at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village this summer. And because Vantrees’ political ambitions are not confined solely to ABAC, he is also working this summer as an intern for Congressman Austin Scott.

“Both Dr. Niles Reddick and Mrs. Scott put in a good word for me,” Vantrees said. “I then interviewed for the position and was chosen.”

He has high hopes to make his mark in the corporate sector before throwing his hat into the political ring. Vantrees would like to serve the state of Georgia as commissioner of agriculture and then become secretary of agriculture.

But before any of that can be attained, the Douglasville native will finish his education at the University of Georgia to earn his bachelor’s and master’s degree or attend law school. But he admits he will be reluctant to leave ABAC.

“I love ABAC – especially the atmosphere and the history,” Vantrees said. “I will really miss it when I leave here. I have made lifelong friends with the faculty, staff, and students. It is exactly what I needed in a college career.”

**ABAC Birthdays**

- 20 Jessica Wilcox
- 21 Charles Harvey
- 21 Amy Warren
- 23 Janet Weaver
- 24 Jerry Edwards
- 26 Sandra Giles

**ABAC Pool Open**

The ABAC pool is open for students and faculty to enjoy during the spring and summer months. The pool hours are Mon. – Thurs. from 3 – 7 p.m. and Fri. – Sun. from 1 – 6 p.m. Pool parties must be coordinated through Bobbie Baldree in the ABAC Information Center at 391-5001.

**ABAC Family**

Dr. Ray Barber and Dr. John Farrar attended the National Science Foundation’s "Broadening Impact" conference for NSF-Funded Projects in Washington, D.C. June 16 and 17.

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